



# The Compassionate Friends

of Brushy Creek  
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

July

In-person meeting will be Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 7p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church

510 Luther Drive. Georgetown. TX. 78628

512-348-7885 [TCFBrushyCreek@hmail.com](mailto:TCFBrushyCreek@hmail.com)

(If you have problems finding us call: 512-966-1651)



Virtual Meeting is fourth Thursday of the month  
Thursday, July 27, 2023 7-8:30pm

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85260313703?pwd=OWI6aDV3ZWY1cHhaQzUwNE03ZXRZQT09>

## Welcome

We, of the Brushy Creek Chapter of The Compassionate Friends, offer you a warm welcome. Our meetings are twice a month: In-person on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm and virtually on the fourth Thursday at 7pm. The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved families. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child at any time, of any age, from any cause is welcome. Our meetings give an opportunity to families to talk about their feelings as they go through the grieving process. The purpose of this support group is not the cause of death but rather to focus on being a bereaved parent, sibling or grandparent, along with the feelings and issues that evolve around the death experience of a child. There is no religious affiliation. There are no membership dues.

## Circle

How do you bear it all?  
The cry came from a mother  
Whose son had died only weeks before.  
We were in a circle, looking at her,  
Looking around, looking away,  
Tears in our hearts, in our eyes.  
How do we bear it?  
I don't know,  
But the circle helps.



Eva Lager  
TCF/Western Australia

(Eve's daughter Milya Claudia Lager died by suicide on 4 March 1990.)

## The Mission of The Compassionate Friends:

When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated.

The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.



***YOU NEED NOT WALK ALONE  
WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS***

### **TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:**

We recognize that it takes great courage to come to the first meeting, whether you are a bereaved parent, sibling or grandparent of one month or many years. Please don't be afraid to come to a meeting. You are welcome to bring a friend or relative for moral support if you wish. Nothing is asked of you. You will find that it is alright to cry and to laugh, to share how you feel or just listen. You do not have to talk at a meeting if you do not want to. We welcome your participation, but it is not a requirement. To be fair to yourself, please consider attending at least three meetings before you decide whether TCF is right for you.

### **TO OUR MEMBERS FURTHER DOWN THE "GRIEF ROAD"**

Each meeting will have new parents, siblings and grandparents. **THINK BACK** – what would it have been like for you at your first meeting if there had not been any TCF "veterans" to welcome you, share your grief, encourage you and tell you, "Your pain will not always be this bad." We welcome your presence and support!

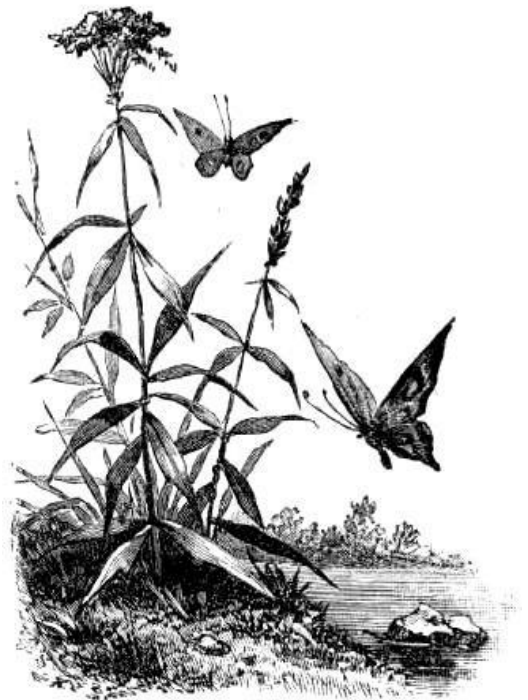
### **INFORMATION REGARDING OUR MEETINGS**

This is **YOUR** group and we are here to support each other. Everyone in the room has walked the path you are on now. We hope you will find our meetings and newsletters to be a comfort and a place where you find hope.

## Who You'd Be Today (song)

*Kenny Chesney*

Sunny days seem to hurt the most  
I wear the pain like a heavy coat  
I feel you everywhere I go  
I see your smile, I see your face  
I hear you laughing in the rain  
I still can't believe you're gone  
It ain't fair you died too young  
Like a story that had just begun  
But death tore the pages all away  
God knows how I miss you  
All the hell that I've been through  
Just knowing no one could take your place  
Sometimes I wonder who you'd be today  
Would you see the world, would you chase your dreams  
Settle down with a family  
I wonder what would you name your babies  
Some days the sky's so blue  
I feel like I can talk to you  
I know it might sound crazy  
It ain't fair you died too young  
Like a story that had just begun  
But death tore the pages all away  
God knows how I miss you  
All the hell that I've been through  
Just knowing no one could take your place  
Sometimes I wonder who you'd be today  
Today, today, today  
Today, today, today  
Sunny days seem to hurt the most  
I wear the pain like a heavy coat  
The only thing that gives me hope  
Is I know I'll see you again someday  
Someday, someday



*I feel you everywhere I go*



Thank you to an anonymous donor  
In memory of his brother



Newsletter Editor NEEDED

If you have time, computer skills and want to volunteer to create the chapter's monthly newsletter, please contact one of the chapter Leaders at [tcfbrushycreek@gmail.com](mailto:tcfbrushycreek@gmail.com) or 512-348-7885



### Why I Attend TCF Meetings

After a busy day at work, when I'm rushing home to eat dinner, then hop back in the car again, going to a TCF meeting sometimes feels like just another thing added to an already busy day. Although there are days I hate my hectic lifestyle, that same hectic lifestyle is what disguises my pain. I think of my son every day, the moment I wake up, on the drive to and from work, and before my head hits the pillow every night. But the busyness is what keeps me from dwelling on a pain that is now all too familiar. Then I arrive. The same people, who were there for me at TCF from the beginning, almost five years ago, greet me. The faces that were once strangers, I now call friends. The "How are you doing?" greeting is genuine; they really listen and care when I tell them that things aren't that great. I can be honest and know that THEY GET IT. As we go around the room and share our stories, I find myself saying, "I do that too ... I've thought about that too ... That's something I've been struggling with too ..." When our meeting ends, on my drive home, I can't believe I even hesitated on coming to the meeting tonight. I needed to be there. Although the pain of losing my son has subdued over time, it still remains. I'm thankful for TCF, a place I can go where everyone knows my name and my hurt. At TCF, I can share a "glimpse" of what really weighs on my heart, which is very often different than the mask on my face.



Jennie Ewert  
TCF Gladwin, MI  
In Memory of my son Zach

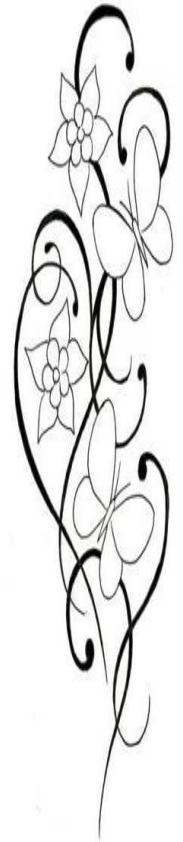
## You Should Be Here (Song)

Cole Swindell

It's perfect outside its like god let me dial up the weather  
Got the whole crew here, I ain't seen some of them in forever  
It's one of those never forget it, better stop and take it in kinda scenes  
Everything's just right yeah except for one thing  
You should be here, standing with your arm around me here  
Cutting up, cracking a cold beer  
Saying cheers, hey y'all it's sure been a good year  
It's one of those moments, that's got your name written all over it  
And you know that if I had just one wish it'd  
Be that you didn't have to miss this  
You should be here  
You'd be taking way too many pictures on your phone  
Showing them off to everybody that you know back home  
And even some you don't yeah  
They say now you're in a better place  
And I would be too if I could see your face  
You should be here, standing with your arm around me here  
Cutting up, cracking a cold beer  
Saying cheers, hey y'all it's sure been a good year  
It's one of those moments, that's got your name written all over it  
And you know that if I had just one wish  
It'd be that you didn't have to miss this  
Aw you should be here  
You'd be loving this, you'd be freaking out, you'd be smiling, yeah  
I know you'd be all about what's going on right here right now  
God I wish somehow you could be here  
Oh you should be here  
Yeah this is one of those moments that's got your name written all over it  
And you know that if I have just one wish it'd be that you didn't have to miss this  
Aw you should be here  
You should be here

*The song, written by Swindell and Ashley Gorley, is a tribute to Swindell's father who died unexpectedly while Swindell was out on tour after signing his record deal.*

*Oh you should be here*



## The Compassionate Friends Credo

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope.

The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope.

We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds, and relationships. We are young, and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and intensely painful that they feel helpless and see no hope.

Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died.

We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

**YOU NEED NOT WALK ALONE  
WE ARE THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**



TCFBC  
Thanks Shelley  
Ransom  
For her  
Years  
Of being the  
Newsletter  
Editor

### **A Year in the Life**

How can we ever understand  
The loss of a life so dear  
It's still so hard to believe  
It's almost been a year

We miss your love  
We miss your smile  
We pray that you are near  
We pray that you will help us  
Through relentless sadness  
And endless tears

You're in a better place now  
By God you were received  
You'll never feel life's pain again  
In that we do believe

We make our weekly journey  
To the place you now call home  
Across hillsides made of monuments  
To touch your name carved in stone

We stand alone, we cry, we pray  
Your brother, mom, and dad  
A full year gone and counting  
Our lives forever sad

Tom Murphy  
Greater Cincinnati TCF - East Chapter, OH  
In Memory of my son, Brennan Murphy

## Contact Information

### TCF Brushy Creek

#### *Steering Committee*

#### *Co-Leaders.:*

Robin Cassens

Mary Delaney

Penny Leone

#### *Siblings Rep*

Stephanie Thompson

#### *Advisory*

Rebecca Burgman

Newsletter (*Consider  
volunteering*)

Chapter Email Address:

[TCFBrushyCreek@gmail.com](mailto:TCFBrushyCreek@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.TCFBrushyCreek.org](http://www.TCFBrushyCreek.org)

### **TCF National Office Information:**

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[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)



Join us on  
**Facebook**



## Things I've Learned Since the Loss of My Child

*by Angela Miller*

### **Bereaved parents share an unspeakable bond**

In my seven years navigating the world as a bereaved parent, I am continually struck by the power of the bond between bereaved parents. Strangers become kindreds in mere seconds— a look, a glance, a knowing of the heart connects us, even if we've never met before. No matter our circumstances, who we are, or how different we are, there is no greater bond than the connection between parents who understand the agony of enduring the death of a child. It's a pain we suffer for a lifetime, and unfortunately only those who have walked the path of child loss understand the depth and breadth of both the pain and the love we carry.



**The Compassionate Friends of Brushy Creek**

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